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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Emelen et al. :
Application No. 10/507159 : ON APPLICATION FOR
Filing or 371(c) Date: 09/08/2004 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Atty Docket No.: :
026038.0274PTUS :

This is in response to the APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT INCLUDING REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b), filed March 12, 2010.

Applicant submits that the proper patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent is 1623 days, not 990 days as calculated by the Office as of the mailing of the initial determination of patent term adjustment¹. Applicant requests this correction solely on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent. The application for patent term adjustment is properly treated under 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b).

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is DISMISSED as PREMATURE.

Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term pattee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.702(b). (This is true even where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed). The computer will not undertake the § 1.702(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Likewise, the computer will not calculate any further Office delay under § 1.702(a)(4) or applicant delay under § 1.704(c)(10) until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. As such, the Office can not make a determination on the correctness of the patent term adjustment until the patent has issued.

¹ Petitioner's note that the 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Stage Commencement date (filing date) is September 8, 2004. However, the commencement date is the date 30 months from the earliest priority date claimed in the international application. See 37 CFR § 1.491. (The commencement date may be earlier than 30 months where (1) an applicant expressly requested early commencement, and completed all requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371(c), or (2) Demand was timely filed requesting a change in commencement from 20 to 30 months. Neither is applicable here).

Requesting reconsideration of the patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent under 37 CFR 1.705(b) based on the initial determination of patent term adjustment and a projected issuance date of the patent (or even the filing date of the request for continued examination) is premature. Accordingly, it is appropriate to dismiss as premature such a request.

Rather than file an application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b) contesting the 37 CFR 1.702(b) calculation at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicant is advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). As the USPTO does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent. However, as to all other bases for contesting the initial determination of patent term adjustment received with the notice of allowance, applicant must timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee².

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e) for consideration of the application for patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(b).

Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent must be timely filed within 2 months after issuance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d) and **must** include payment of the required fee under 37 CFR 1.18(e).

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3232.

/Derek L. Woods/

Derek L. Woods
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Office of Petitions

² For example, if applicant disputes both the calculation of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) for Office failure to mail a first Office action or notice of allowance not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed and under 37 CFR 1.702(b) for Office failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application, then applicant must still timely file an application for patent term adjustment prior to the payment of the issue fee to contest the calculation of Office delay in issuing a first Office action or notice of allowance. See 37 CFR 1.705(b) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B). A dispute as to the calculation of the §1.702(a)(1) period raised on request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.705(d) will be dismissed as untimely filed.